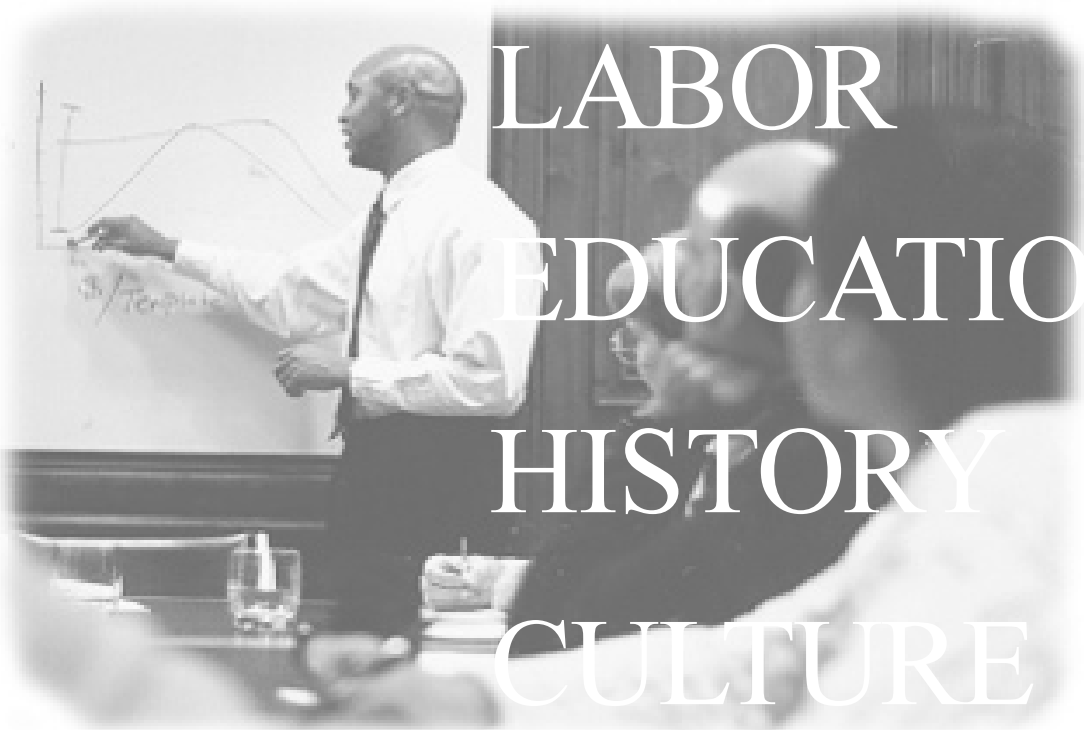


# TERREBONNE



# PARISH

*“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”*

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



## Terrebonne Parish

**Houma-Terrebonne  
Tourist Commission**  
1702 St. Charles St.  
P.O. Box 2792  
Houma, LA 70361  
504-868-2732  
800-688-2732

**Regional Office of  
Public Health**  
Larry Richard  
Regional Administrator  
Acadian Regional  
Office  
Brandywine III, Ste.  
100  
825 Kaliste Saloom Rd.  
Lafayette, LA 70508  
318-262-5311  
318-262-5237 fax

### History<sup>1</sup>

Terrebonne Parish, chronologically the 26<sup>th</sup> parish created, was established in April 1822 from a portion of Lafourche Parish. The derivation of the name Terrebonne, “good land,” seems fully justified because of the rich alluvial lands comprising the area. Of interesting note are the forerunners of the present highway system, which follow the paths of the numerous bayous. They were developed from the towpaths along each stream used when there was not sufficient breeze to drive the sails upstream.

Prior to 1765 there were very few white settlers. Notable among them, however, was Captain Dautrine. In that year Acadians arrived in the area, coming via Santa Domingo. Early parish settler’s names include Royal, Belanger, Provost, Marlborough, Duplantis, and Grinage.

While the citizens enjoy a world of the slower life-style from the Spanish and French influence – savoring each day and appreciating the simpler things in life – today Terrebonne Parish is recognized throughout the nation as one of the most important petroleum centers, and fishing, farming and fur-trapping communities. This growth and development is sure to continue with forward-looking usage of its wealth of natural resources.

### Culture and Recreation<sup>3</sup>

One hour driving time from New Orleans on U.S. 90 West, travelers will find the bayou city of Houma, seat of Terrebonne Parish. Travel a coast road to see the natural beauty of Cajun Country. Visitors will enjoy the swamp scenery, especially the alligators, nutria, and varieties of birds in the wild. Experience the delight of fresh-water and saltwater fishing, view antebellum homes along the seven bayous and see the 55 bridges here. Some of the more notable bridges include swinging, lifting, and bascule bridges as well as a pontoon bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway. Other attractions are art galleries, guided boat, land and air tours through the swamps, cajun food, music and culture and the Houma’s Indian Communities. Houma is a natural place to Terrebonne Parish is a natural place to visit when you want to get back to nature.



**Parish Seat<sup>1</sup>** ..... Houma<sup>1</sup>

**Major Cities** (over 5,000 population)<sup>2</sup>

Houma



1990 .....	30,495
1997 (estimate) .....	33,462
Bayou Cane CDP*	
1990 .....	15,876
1997 (estimate) .....	N/A

\* Census Designated Place

### Parish Population<sup>2</sup>

1990 .....	55,882
1997 (estimate) .....	57,703

### Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)<sup>6</sup>

White .....	76%
African American .....	18%
Other .....	6%
Male .....	49%
Female .....	51%
Population age 0-4 .....	8%
Populations age 65 & over .....	9%

### Geography and Statistics<sup>2</sup>

Average elevation .....	15 ft.
Land area in square miles .....	2,066
Water area in square miles <sup>4</sup> .....	825.0

### Climate<sup>2</sup>

Average temperatures	
Annual .....	69°
January .....	53°
July .....	83°
Annual average rainfall .....	57.5 in.

### Labor Force (1995)<sup>1</sup>

Civilian .....	42,700
Employed .....	40,300
Unemployed .....	2,400
Unemployment .....	5.7%

### Agriculture<sup>1</sup>

Sugarcane; oil and gas production and related industries, sugar refining, commercial fishing and packing, shrimp drying, sulphur and diversified wholesale and retail trade.

### Educational Attainment (1990)<sup>7</sup>

Less than 5th grade .....	7.0%
High school graduate or higher .....	59.6%
Some college or higher .....	24.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher .....	9.4%

### Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees<sup>2</sup>

#### Private Employers

Ogden Offshore Food Services (Offshore Catering) .....	750
Halliburton Energy Service (Oil Field Services) .....	649
Gulf Island Fabrication, Inc. (Steel Fabrication) .....	560

#### Public Employers

Terrebonne Parish School System (Education) .....	2,237
Terrebonne General Medical Center (Medical) .....	1,012
Leonard Chabert Medical Center (Medical) .....	950

### Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) <sup>7</sup> .....	20.1%
Children under age 18 in poverty <sup>7</sup> .....	29.4%
Per capita income (1996) <sup>8</sup> .....	\$17,444



### References

- <sup>1</sup> Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- <sup>2</sup> Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>
- <sup>3</sup> Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- <sup>4</sup> Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- <sup>5</sup> State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- <sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>

## Colleges/Universities<sup>2</sup> (within one hour commute)

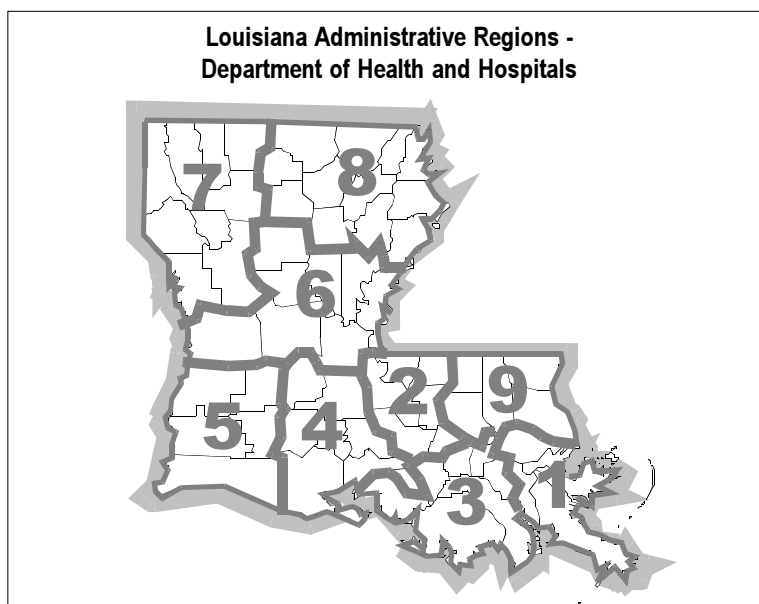
### *New Orleans*

Delgado Community College; Dillard University; Louisiana State University Medical Center; Loyola University; New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Notre Dame School of Theology; Our Lady of Holy Cross College; Southern University; Tulane University; University of New Orleans; Xavier University

### *Thibodaux*

Nicholls State University

## Public Libraries<sup>5</sup> ..... 10



### Region 1

Jefferson  
Orleans  
Plaquemines  
St. Bernard

### Region 2

Ascension  
East Baton Rouge  
East Feliciana  
Iberville  
Pointe Coupee  
West Baton Rouge  
West Feliciana

### Region 3

Assumption  
Lafourche  
St. Charles  
St. James  
St. John  
St. Mary  
Terrebonne

### Region 4

Acadia  
Evangeline  
Iberia  
Lafayette  
St. Landry  
St. Martin  
Vermilion

### Region 5

Allen  
Beauregard  
Calcasieu  
Cameron  
Jefferson Davis

### Region 6

Avoyelles  
Catahoula  
Concordia  
Grant  
LaSalle  
Rapides  
Vernon  
Winn

### Region 7

Bienville  
Bossier  
Caddo  
Claiborne  
DeSoto  
Natchitoches  
Red River  
Sabine  
Webster

### Region 8

Caldwell  
East Carroll  
Franklin  
Jackson  
Lincoln  
Madison  
Morehouse  
Ouachita  
Richland  
Tensas  
Union  
West Carroll

### Region 9

Livingston  
St. Helena  
St. Tammany  
Tangipahoa  
Washington